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The Western Normal Letter

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ECHOES FROM THE WESTERN NORMAL

The atmosphere is fine. Normal Heights is a spiritual Florida.

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There is a contagion on Normal Heights that flows from the rule of high ideals and from noble students and earnest teachers.

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The spiritual and physical atmosphere on Normal Heights inspires the mind and stimulates the body. Come and join us and grow and help others grow.

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No one can be a pessimist and live on Normal Heights during these days when a great army of noble men and women are putting brains and consciences into an earnest effort to prepare for a larger service in the Commonwealth.

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The Western Normal is really enjoying unprecedented success. The student-body is unusually large, the interest is high and the work is fine. The faculty and students are happy and are enjoying life. New students are arriving daily; indeed, the winds are blowing on Normal Heights.

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The "atmosphere of souls," the spiritual spontaneity and the rule of high purpose which prevail on Normal Heights make the work easy and call for the best efforts of teachers and of students. There are hundreds of young men and women in Kentucky who have not yet joined our ranks who would enter here and take advantage of the opportunities offered if they knew more of the spirit of the institution and its ability to train men and women for leadership and for the varied activities of life.

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It has been nesessary to add quite a number of new teachers to the faculty in order to accommodate the large student-body that is now in attendance. The Normal is using every means within its power to make the present year the most successful in the history of the institution.

WE WILL MEET YOU AT THE BANQUET IN LOUISVILLE.

At the beginning of the Mid-Winter Term on February 1st Bowling Green and Normal Heights took on the appearance of even more business than usual. This was due to the fact that hundreds of former and new students were returning to enter school at the Western Kentucky State Normal. In order to take care of this great incoming body of students the usual arrangements of special committees to meet the trains and to aid in securing boarding places were made. In addition to this, the young ladies of the Domestic Science School, under the direction of Miss Madison, organized themselves and extended to the entire student-body and faculty an informal reception, serving hot coffee, tea and cakes. Although the day was somewhat dreary on the outside, the cheer of the hospitality dispensed within the walls of the administration building made the students feel at home from the start.

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The Spring Term will open April 11, 1916. More than twice as many students will enter at the beginning of this term as entered at the opening of the same term on last year. The lengthening of the public school term from six to seven months and the delay in opening many of the public schools until August and September is causing a large number of teachers to make their arrangements to enter at this time. A student can enter at this time and attend for the ten-weeks' term or he can continue through the Summer School and in this way get sixteen weeks of consecutive work. Commence now to make your arrangements to enter at the opening of this term, provided you cannot enter before that time. Many of the greatest programs that will be offered during the scholastic year will be given during this term.

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Plans are being laid to make the Annual May Festival of 1916 the greatest and most elaborate yet attempted. Some of the most noted soloists in this country have already been engaged, and the great Symphony Orchestra from Indianapolis will return to take part in it. Too much credit cannot be given to Prof. Franz J. Strahm, who makes this achievement possible every year. It is rarely, if ever, that any cities smaller than Louisville or Cincinnati are able to offer such attractions. Students who come to the Normal during the Spring Term have the privilege of enjoying all three of the great programs offered during the May Festival without extra cost.

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The many former students who have written to ask for copies of the handsome half-tone pictures of the buildings and grounds and the student-body of last spring write that they have placed these pictures on the walls of their school rooms, or elsewhere, and that they are attracting a great deal of attention and favorable comment. We still have a number of these pictures on hand and shall be glad to send them to others who desire them, if they will write and ask for them.

THE BIG OPENING OF THE SPRING TERM OF THE NORMAL WILL OCCUR ON APRIL 11, 1916. A GREAT NUMBER OF NEW STUDENTS WILL ENTER AT THIS TIME.

President H. H. Cherry has written a "Catechism" on the Western Normal which is being very prominently and favorably commented on throughout the country. It tells a most interesting story of education and of one of Kentucky's public institutions. It was submitted by the Board of Regents of the Western Normal for the Biennial Report of the institution. It is a handsome publication, and will be mailed free only to those persons writing for it.

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Although the Normal regretted to accept the resignation of Miss Laura McKenzie, First Grade Critic Teacher, we feel that we have been very fortunate in securing the services of Miss Minnie Bourland, who comes directly to us from New Brunswick, Ga. Miss Bourland is a Kentuckian and has made a great reputation as a primary teacher in State Normal Schools and various institutes of our State. She has entered upon her work with an enthusiasm and ability that will enable her to fill the difficult position she has accepted to the satisfaction of everyone. Miss McKenzie did a high grade work while with us. She is universally esteemed and appreciated by teachers and pupils.

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Friends of Miss Iva Scott are extending her a warm welcome after a prolonged absence at the bedside of her mother, who has been critically ill this winter. During Miss Scott's absence the department was well taken care of by Miss Betsy Madison, who was assisted by Mrs. Cora McMullan, of Henderson, Ky. The department has shown a healthy growth this year, both in Science and Arts. One of the newest and most attractive features is the Euthenics Club, in which most of the girls take part. The club devotes itself to making the home one of comfort and beauty.

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Word comes from Miss Freda Surmann, who is located this year at Conway, Ark., that she is teaching both piano and violin, as well as doing concert work in neighboring towns. Her many friends at the Normal are glad to know that she is meeting with eminent success. She did a high grade piece of work while with us, and is universally appreciated by all who know her.

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Miss Laura Frazee and Miss Nellie Birdsong, who will always be remembered with pleasure and appreciation, are filling influential positions in the city school system of Indianapolis. Miss Frazee is Assistant Superintendent, while Miss Birdsong is doing departmental work in the grades. They are keeping house, have their own car, and are feeling at home in that city, although slipping back to Bowling Green when the occasion permits for a delightful visit. The best wishes of the school and of their host of friends here are with them in their work.

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Another popular former member of our faculty is Miss Belle Caffee,

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THE SUMMER SCHOOL OF THE WESTERN NORMAL FOR 1916 WILL BE THE MOST EXTENSIVELY PLANNED AND LARGELY ATTENDED IN THE HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTION.

who is now located in Evansville, Ind. Miss Caffee has been honored with the position of Supervisor of all of the primary grades in that city. She is, as usual, meeting with eminent success in this new field.

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The dates for the Commencement programs have been set for June 11th to the 17th. Some of the greatest speakers and thinkers in the country will deliver addresses during the Commencemnt. In addition to this, great programs of music will be given the previous week and during the Commencement week. It is earnestly hoped that hundreds of the former students will return to these delightful occasions. Many of the members of the Alumni Association have already written that

RECITATION HALL CABELL HALL

Students on their way to Chapel Exercises—Wester

A large, handsome half-tone cut, 9x35 inches, of the above,

they are making their plans to be here to remain during the Summer School which follows immediately.

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A railroad rate of $2.50 from Bowling Green to Louisville and return has been secured for those who wish to attend the Kentucky Educational Association. A special train will leave Bowling Green at 5.30 a.m. Friday morning, April 21st, and will return leaving Louisville at 5.30 p.m. Saturday, April 22nd. Practically the entire faculty and student-body will compose the party. Most of them will attend the banquet which is being offered under the auspices of the Cherry Club

COMMENCE NOW TO MAKE YOUR ARRANGEMENTS TO ATTEND THE BIG SUMMER SCHOOL WHICH WILL OPEN ON NORMAL HEIGHTS ON JUNE 19, 1916.

of Louisville. Full information concerning this banquet is given elsewhere in this letter.

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Miss Mary McNamara is again at her place as assistant in the County Certificate Department. She and Mr. A. C. Burton, who has charge of the work, have large classes, and they report that the students are doing the best work of their lives. These young people do a large amount of review work preparatory to taking the county examination, and in addition take much of the work leading to State Certificates. This guarantees not only a thorough preparation for the examination, but better scholarship training for the work of teaching.

MINISTRATION BUILDING

entucky State Normal School, Bowling Green, Ky.

be mailed in a tube free to all persons asking or writing for it.

THE TEACHER

Behind every great school lies a great soul, the constructive personality of a great teacher.

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We may have modern schoolhouses, longer school terms, local taxation, consolidation, and all other things that enter into a well-ordered

EVERY FORMER STUDENT OF THE OLD SOUTHERN NORMAL SCHOOL AND THE WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE NORMAL SCHOOL IS URGED TO ATTEND THE BANQUET WHICH WILL BE HELD IN LOUISVILLE DURING THE SESSION OF THE KENTUCKY EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION. FULL INFORMATION IS GIVEN ELSEWHERE IN THIS LETTER.

school, and school community, but without the vitalizing touch of qualified teachers, schoolhouses will become dead matter, the school term will be too long, local taxation unprofitable and consolidation a failure.

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Wherever you find educational efficiency you will find the commanding personality of a teacher.

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Put a poor teacher in a modern schoolhouse, with its modern equipment and attractive grounds, and you will still have a poor school. Put a good teacher in a poor schoolhouse, with poor equipment, and you will have a pretty good school if not a good school and, as a result of the influence of the teacher, you will have, within a short time, a modern school building, modern equipment and a local educational interest.

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Educational enthusiasm will go visiting when the poor teacher enters the community.

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We may champion various methods of educational reform to find in the end that the qualified teacher marches at the head of educational progress.

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Even a live, democratized course of study will die in the hands of a dead teacher and wlil bring disappointment to the people and create the reactionary spirit in the school community.

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The teaching of Agriculture, and all other forms of vocational training, and all other good things that are natural parts of the organic life of the school, will languish and die unless vitalized by leadership.

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It is dangerous for educational reform to reach the school ahead of a trained and reformed teacher.

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What we want is not only physical but spiritual equipment; not only the modern schoolhouse, but the progressive teacher; not only a campaign for improved educational life, but a professional resurrection.

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I think of but one thing that is of more value to an efficient school system than a physical piece of equipment, and that is a spiritual piece of equipment. In other words, a teacher's vision, a teacher's preparation, a teacher's conscience, a teacher's missionary intensity.

EVERY MEMBER OF THE FACULTY OF THE WESTERN NORMAL WILL ATTEND THE BANQUET; THE WIVES OF THOSE WHO ARE MARRIED WILL BE THERE; WILL YOU BE THERE?

I would emphasize, however, that our educational ideal includes moral, spiritual, intellectual and physical efficiency. It includes a good teacher, a good schoolhouse and a progressive course of study. I am not detracting from any of those things that enter into an efficient school system. I am only trying to emphasize the great opportunity and responsibility of the teacher.

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THE WESTERN NORMAL IS IN A POSITION TO RECOMMEND TO EARNEST TRUSTEES AND BOARDS OF EDUCATION A LIMITED NUMBER OF STRONG TEACHERS. WE TRUST THEY WILL WRITE US FREELY, SETTING FORTH THEIR NEEDS. WE SHALL USE GREAT CARE IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT H. H. CHERRY, BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL

The 1916 Summer School of the Western Normal will open on June 19th and continue for six weeks. A most progressive course of study and program will be offered. The services of many noted educational specialists have been secured and they will take an active part in the work of the Summer School. In addition to this, all of the regular members of the faculty will continue their work. An earnest effort is being made to make the Summer School of 1916 the equal of any in this country. Special literature giving full information will be ready for distribution within a few weeks. Write for literature now, and we will send it to you just as soon as we receive it from the publishers.

THE REUNION AND BANQUET

A Great Occasion Has Been Arranged for Present and Former Members of the Faculty and for Present and Former Students

The two hundred or more former students who are now living in Louisville and Jefferson County were called together sometime last year by Mr. Boyce Watkins, a former student, of Louisville, and the Cherry Club was organized. Invitations were sent out to all students who had at any time attended the Western Kentucky State Normal School and the old Southern Normal School, and a large number of

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF A GOOD TEACHER FOR NEXT YEAR IT WILL BE TO YOUR INTEREST TO WRITE PRESIDENT H. H. CHERRY.

former students responded and were in attendance at the organization of the club. Mr. Boyce Watkins was elected President; Mr. Roy Helm, Vice President; Mr. P. C. Smith, Secretary, and Mr. J. L. Harman, Treasurer. The club has been meeting at the Y. M. C. A. in Louisville every two weeks since its organization, and a most constructive and interesting program has been rendered. The organization has been an eminent success from its beginning. It has afforded not only an opportunity for a study of the current problems of life, but an opportunity to renew old associations and to develop the spirit of goodwill and progress that prevails in the institutions which they attended. In order to have a get-together-meeting of all former and present students and of all former and present members of the faculty, the Cherry Club has made arrangements with the management of the Seelbach Hotel to serve a most attractive banquet on the auditorium floor of the Seelbach Hotel on the evening of April 21, 1916, from 4.30 p.m. to 8 p.m., at which time it is hoped every former student will be present. Every student who has attended the Western Kentucky State Normal School and the old Southern Normal School is most cordially invited and expected to be present upon this occasion. The price of the plates has been placed at $1.00. This is a nominal sum for the kind of banquet that will be served, and it is earnestly desired that not a single student will fail to avail himself of this opportunity. All persons desiring a plate reserved at this banquet should make out a check payable to the Cherry Club and send it to the Western Kentucky State Normal School, Bowling Green, Ky. This should be done at the earliest possible date. The receipt of the check will be acknowledged and tickets sent by return mail. Wives and husbands of former students are invited to be present. It is the desire of the Cherry Club to make this one of the biggest banquets that has ever been held in Louisville. A special train will run from Bowling Gre n on this occasion.

THE SEELBACH HOTEL WILL BE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE WESTERN NORMAL DURING THE KENTUCKY EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

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